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agreement in results. Wells and Forbes refer the psychophysical galvanic reflex to "the secretion of sweat, which manifests itself physically in two ways, by changing the electrical potential of the surface of the body and by lowering the resistance of the skin." Radecki finds, similarly, a change of potential at the surface and an increased conductivity of the body as a whole; he refers the former to secretory, the latter to circulatory changes; but he adds that the two physiological processes are interdependent, to the extent that each one may be the indirect cause of a physical phenomenon depending directly on the other. Wells and Forbes say that "as an objective criterion of emotional reaction, the electrical reflex appears distinctly superior to any analogous procedure as yet developed;" they add, however, that variations in the susceptibility of a given individual at different times are hardly less than those between different individuals. Radecki also concludes that the reflex is the most delicate test of the emotive factor in mental processes as yet discovered; and he appends a like qualification, though the conditions of his work lead him merely to restrict the application of the test to the individual. It is clear, then, that we are well on the way towards an understanding of the reflex and that, with the improved methods and instruments now becoming available, we may hope to secure a reliable objective index of the presence of affective processes in consciousness.

Miss Whitley reports 45 tests on 3 to 7 subjects, discussed with a view to correlation, change under brief practice, and reliability of the single trial; and 5 very different tests on 9 subjects, discussed from the point of view of change by practice (of the adequacy of 'mean curves' for tests and for persons subjected to them). On the basis of these results, she considers a number of objections raised against various modes of test-procedure. (1) 'A simple test tells us very little of its subject.' But descriptive notes may be taken during performance, and careful selection will render even a simple test significant. (2) 'A single trial is unreliable.' True: not only because of its singleness, but also because of other, variable factors. Few tests frequently administered give the best estimate of the individual and the best basis for comparison. (3) 'The result of the first few trials measures, not the function under test, but adaptability to novel conditions.' The objection is not of weight. (4) 'Tests measure previous similar experience rather than actual capacity.' But this holds of all mental measurement; and the inference is, simply, that tests should be repeated at stated intervals. (5) 'Results are misleading.' True, if only one form of measurement is employed; not if the measurements are treated in various possible ways. (6) 'Practice is individual, both for person and for process tested.' But there is a general law of improvement; and characteristic variability or consistency of performance is precisely what the tests will disclose.

*L'Analyse physiologique de la perception.* Par E. ABRAMOWSKI. Collection de psychologie expérimentale et de métapsychie, xx. Paris, Bloud et Cie. 1911. pp. 120.

Every 'state of consciousness,' the author tells us, is correlated with 'a group of active physiological elements, nervous and other.' Thus the unitary 'state of consciousness' that we call the visual perception of an object is correlated with a group of sensorial elements, peripheral, subcortical and cortical, whose activity conditions the externalised totality of sensible qualities; a group of mnestic elements in the frontal lobes, which give recognition, make the object par-

ticular; a group of coenaesthetic elements, which add affective tone; and a group of elements simultaneously excited through other sense-organs, which bring no consciousness of their own, but nevertheless influence our experience (*manière de sentir*) of the conscious perception. By the excitatory effect of group upon neighboring group, and the inhibitory effect of new upon precedent activity, four kinds of change take place in the physiological correlate: a new group is associated to a pre-existing group (subjective variation in perception, judgment); part of a group remains active, while the remaining part lapses from function (dysgnosia, resulting from fatigue of attention); part of a group lapses, while the remaining part is associated to a new group (association of ideas); and the association of a new group arrests the function of the pre-existing group (sudden emotion, suggestion). Furthermore, all nervous activity is reducible to a nutritive reaction. And as this metabolic process extends beyond the nervous system to other tissues, the entire organism divides, at a given conscious moment, into a part that is living or active, and a part that is dormant or inactive; so that, in the wider sense, the whole of the 'living' part is the correlate of consciousness. What this living part is, in detail, must be made out by application of the method of concomitant variations.—

The author is, no doubt, right in his insistence upon the very great complexity of the neural counterpart of such a process as perception. He does good service, also, in calling attention to the peculiar change in perception that results from change of mood; things do seem actually to 'look brighter,' to assume a greater luminosity and a more vivid coloring, when we are, *e. g.*, joyfully expectant. On the other hand, his underlying doctrine of assimilation and dissimilation, his theory of feeling, and his classification of mental processes, are all open to criticism; too little is known, whether of nervous system or of mind, for such theorising to command acceptance.

*Handbook of American Indian Languages.* By F. BOAS. Part I. Washington, Govt. Printing Office. 1911. pp. vii., 1069. Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 40, pt. i.

*Indian Tribes of the Lower Mississippi Valley and Adjacent Coast of the Gulf of Mexico.* By J. R. SWANTON. Washington, Govt. Printing Office. 1911. pp. vii., 387. Bulletin 43.

*Indian Languages of Mexico and Central America and their Geographical Distribution.* By C. THOMAS, assisted by J. R. SWANTON. Washington, Govt. Printing Office. 1911. pp. vii., 108. Bulletin 44.

*Preliminary Report on a Visit to the Navaho National Monument, Arizona.* By J. W. FEWKES. Washington, Govt. Printing Office. 1911. pp. vii., 35. Bulletin 50.

*Antiquities of the Mesa Verde National Park: Cliff Palace.* By J. W. FEWKES. Washington, Govt. Printing Office. 1911. pp. 82. Bulletin 51.

The first work upon this list had its inception in an attempt to prepare a revised edition of the Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages by the late Major J. W. Powell. The present volume contains sketches, by competent hands, of ten languages of the northern group: the Athapascan, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Kwakiutl, Chinook, Maidu, Algonquian, Siouan and Eskimo. The Introduction, by Professor Boas, discusses Race and Language, the Characteristics of Language,